

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a (S)-4-halo-3-hydroxybutyric acid ester, the method comprising asymmetrically reducing a ~~4-halo-acetoacetic~~ 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester or its derivative with a purified acetoacetyl-CoA reductase (EC 1.1.1.36) that ~~can~~ participates in a poly- β -hydroxy fatty acid biosynthesis system, ~~the purified acetoacetyl-CoA reductase comprising the amino acid sequence of a naturally occurring acetoacetyl-CoA reductase.~~

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said acetoacetyl-CoA reductase is from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Ralstonia*.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the microorganism is *Ralstonia eutropha*.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said acetoacetyl-CoA reductase comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester is 4-chloroacetoacetic acid ester.

14. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester is ethyl 4-chloroacetoacetate.

15-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said acetoacetyl-CoA reductase is from *Zoogloea ramigera*.

24-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the reduction is carried out in the presence of glucose dehydrogenase.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the reduction is carried out in the presence of glucose dehydrogenase.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the reduction is carried out in the presence of glucose dehydrogenase.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the reduction is carried out in the presence of glucose dehydrogenase.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the reduction is carried out in the presence of glucose dehydrogenase.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the reduction is carried out in the presence of glucose dehydrogenase.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the reduction is carried out in the presence of glucose dehydrogenase.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester is 4-chloroacetoacetic acid ester.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester is ethyl 4-chloroacetoacetate.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester is 4-chloroacetoacetic acid ester.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester is ethyl 4-chloroacetoacetate.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester is 4-chloroacetoacetic acid ester.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester is ethyl 4-chloroacetoacetate.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester is 4-chloroacetoacetic acid ester.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the 4-haloacetoacetic acid ester is ethyl 4-chloroacetoacetate.